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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Forty-fourth session
Items 6, 7 and 8 of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Letter dated 6 June 1992 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

1. I am particularly pleased to address myself to you through this letter in order to let you know about the development of the democratic processes in Albania, as well as about the great importance being attached to the protection of human rights in my country.

2. As you may be aware, since fall 1990, deep-going political and social transformations have taken place in Albania, as an outcome of which the country embarked on the course of the democratic developments that embraced Central and Eastern Europe. Within a short period of time, political pluralism was sanctioned, freedom of religion was restored and religious institutions were reopened, freedom of the press and expression was established, all the prisoners of conscience were released and efforts are being made to fully integrate them into normal life. During the previous

year, Albania became a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guaranteed to a considerable extent the citizens' fundamental freedoms and human rights, in conformity with the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

3. Last year, Albania was accepted as a full-fledged member country of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). Likewise, it made great efforts to put an end to its half-a-century isolation inherited from the dictatorship. As a CSCE member country, it meets all the obligations deriving from the Copenhagen and Moscow documents.

4. The multiparty free elections held on 22 March of this year were an excellent example of the peaceful way followed by the people to definitely topple down the old system and to establish a system founded on law, the market economy and the granting of human rights and fundamental freedoms to citizens. The government that emerged from the free elections has committed itself to make all-round efforts to restore the country's economy and to strengthen the democratic institutions. Judicial power was separated from the other powers. The Ministry of Justice was set up and legal defence was introduced. State administrations were reformed, the Constitutional Court of Law was set up and work is under way to set up the Ombudsman institutions.

5. Referring to the above-mentioned changes, I have the pleasure to impart to you that Albania is making efforts in order to play an as active role as possible in the United Nations Organization and all the other international bodies. The special relations already established with the Council of Europe, through the assistance of which a broad-scale programme on human rights and legal and constitutional system in Albania is being followed, shall be crowned with my country's accession to the European Cultural Convention. The contacts and cooperation with a considerable number of governmental and non-governmental organizations, with parliamentarians, etc., testify to the seriousness with which Albania has committed itself onto the road of democracy.

6. Likewise, the radical changes that have taken place in the field of human rights in Albania have had their positive impact on the close cooperation of the Albanian Government with the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva and its rapporteurs, on the reports of the fact-finding CSCE missions. In February this year, a draft programme on technical assistance was signed between the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Albanian Government, the application of which will give fresh impulse to the work to become familiar with and institutionalize all the issues pertaining to human rights in Albania.

7. Proceeding from the above, I have the honour to address myself to you in order to kindly ask you that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities examine the suspension of the 1503 Procedure and of the resolution on Albania and, in relation to this, make the relevant recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights. In my opinion, such an action is in full compliance with the situation of human rights in Albania.

(Signed): Alfred Serraqi
Minister of Foreign Affairs
of Albania